

VILLAGE OF POWHATAN POINT

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Jeffrey Haught, Mayor

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Testimony Before the Ohio House Transportation Committee House Bill 83 – As Introduced
Presented by: Jeffrey Haught, Mayor of the Village of Powhatan Point
Date: April 28, 2025

Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Daniels, Ranking Member Grim, and members of the House Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on House Bill 83, legislation that clarifies and adjusts the responsibilities of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) for state highways located within municipal corporations, particularly Ohio's cities and villages.

My name is Jeffrey Haught, and I serve as Mayor, representing the Village of Powhatan Point. I appreciate the sponsors, Representatives Ferguson and McClain, for bringing this bill forward, and I'd like to offer our support for its intent, along with a few observations and recommendations.

House Bill 83 appropriately recognizes the differing capacities and needs of cities and villages when it comes to the maintenance of state highways within their borders. Most notably, the bill removes the requirement for villages to formally request and authorize ODOT's maintenance and line-marking work on state highways. Instead, it mandates that these functions be performed automatically, but in consultation with the village. This change is both practical and welcome, especially for Ohio's smaller municipalities that often lack the financial or technical capacity to manage this infrastructure on their own.

Powhatan Point is a small Village of 1.63 square miles, 1,700 residents, and it sits at the intersection of State Route 7 and State Route 148. With two state routes, the amount of traffic passing through the small Village is significant, with over 8,000 vehicles passing through daily. Commercial vehicles comprise a substantial portion of that traffic. A sizable number of Village residents are retired which diminishes the tax basis of the Village. The maintenance of the state routes, particularly with damage to the roads caused by the commercial traffic, places an undeniable and unsustainable burden on the Village.

House Bill 83 represents a thoughtful and helpful update to Ohio's transportation statutes. It better aligns state responsibilities with municipal capacity and encourages strong partnerships between ODOT and local governments.

I respectfully urge this committee to advance House Bill 83, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

/s/Jeffrey Haught
Jeffrey Haught, Mayor